

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10



Small Group Questions

Introduction:

The short guy, the jerk, the cheater...these were SOME of Zacchaeus' nicknames. He was a tax-collector for the Romans, but was a Jew. He exploited his position and robbed his fellow Jews. No one was a fan of Zach's...he was a selfish loner. Until he climbed a tree to see Jesus that is! No one would want to eat with him, yet Jesus invited himself over to have lunch THAT day! Always an outcast, now invited to eat with Jesus. Where there was not belonging, Jesus gave belonging (notice a common theme?)

Discussion:

Here we see Jesus giving another person grace. He decided to go to this "sinners" house and give him belonging with Him. This encounter completely changed Zacchaeus for the better!

-When people encounter you, do you think they are changed? If yes, how are they changed?

-Would you have made fun of Zacchaeus, or go eat with him, like Jesus did? Why or why not?

-Zacchaeus was an outcast changed by the presence of Jesus. Have you experienced Jesus like Zacchaeus did? If yes, explain what it was like.

Explanation:

Jesus wants to hang out with you. He desires for you to know Him. He doesn't care what you look like, who your friends are, or what your background is. None of that will stop Him from wanting to hang with you.

-Will you hang with Jesus? If so what will you do to do that?

- Did you ever know that Jesus (who is God BTW) wants to spend time with you? How does that little idea make you feel?

Application:

Hanging with Jesus can be done in several ways. He wants you to experience the ultimate belonging with Him. So you can be prosperous and so you can share that love and acceptance with others.

-READ Joshua 1:7-8- One of the ways to hang with Jesus is by reading the Word of God! It is a letter written to you so you can know Him. This will change you like it did Zacchaeus and will make your life more than you could ever imagine!

-We need His word. How can we take steps to read His Word more?

- FOR TAKE HOME- Challenge the teens to read John 8:31-38 and see how the Word of God can set us free like Jesus did with Zacchaeus. Challenge them to read through their Bible reading, not just to read it and check it off though, but to pray that God will hang out with them and bring understanding to what they read. Ask them to try to write it down and bring it to share next week.